

News Bulletin

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Stay Cool & Be Safe

The official day of summer began June 21, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency advises Illinoisans to prepare for extreme heat conditions. Residents should understand central Illinois hazards and safety awareness (<http://www.state.il.us/iema>). Research shows that in extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Older adults, young children, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat. Conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Remember, before pushing your body beyond its limit, consult with your primary care physician.

During a heat emergency the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers the following guidelines for what you should do if the weather is extremely hot; Stay indoors as much as possible to limit exposure to the sun, eat well-balanced, light and regular meals, drink plenty of water and never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.



Message from Director Bill Burke

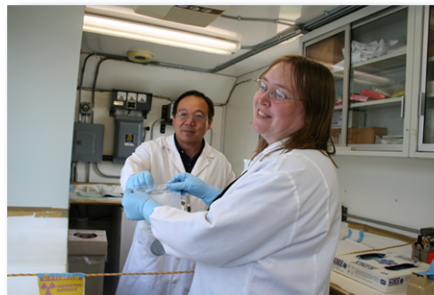
It's that time again for planning summer vacations and 4th of July firework celebrations. IEMA simply wants to remind you to BE SAFE. Fireworks present the greatest risk of fire danger, serious injuries and even death to adults and children. Knowing basic safety precautions can help prevent injuries to you and your family. When lighting fireworks, make sure you follow the instructions and the warnings on the labels and wear eye protection. Keep fireworks away from the house, dry leaves and flammable materials, and make sure that all observers are a safe distance away before lighting fireworks. Never relight a dud. Wait 15-20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water. Finally, never use illegal explosives. The safest choice, if you want to see fireworks on the Fourth of July, is to attend a local event, where you can watch a fireworks display created by professionals. – Have a safe 4th of July!

Braidwood Pre-Drill Exercise

One of the 2006 goals for the Bureau of Nuclear Facility Safety was to develop a portable radiation detector with satellite data uplink communications and a Global Positioning System (GPS) connectivity with real-time Geographical Information System (GIS) for use in aircraft. This capability will allow IEMA to rapidly assess the extent of radioactive contamination and automatically transmit that data to the Springfield computer centers where data is analyzed by experts and public safety actions can be taken. The data simulation capabilities, the vehicle based capabilities, and the airborne capabilities of the Mobile Radiation Detector System were tested during the Braidwood pre-exercise on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at the Mazon office staging area. An Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) helicopter, equipped with an IEMA radiation detector (designed by NFS staff), flew over the simulated release area near the Braidwood nuclear plant. The radiation data readings were successfully transmitted to the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) computers in Springfield, Illinois. Preliminary results of the flyover validated that captured airborne data was accurately acquired and displayed on our computerized maps of the area. Further tests are planned during the ingestion pathway exercise to be held in August, 2006.

The Braidwood Station is located in Braceville, Illinois, approximately 50 miles southwest of Chicago. Braidwood Units 1 and 2 went into commercial operation in 1988. The station uses two pressurized water reactors (PWR), each capable of generating 1,200 megawatts of electrical power. The plant area includes several buildings, two reactor containments, an auxiliary building (housing the control room), the turbine building, the fuel building, the radwaste building, the service building, and a training facility. Various other buildings are also located in the general plant area. A lake screen house on the intake flume is located about 1,600 feet south of the main building complex. A river screen house, located on the Kankakee River, provides makeup water to the cooling lake for the station.

Exercise Staging Area



Nuclear Facility Safety (NFS) Resident Inspectors

IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety, Resident Inspectors (RI) are the unsung heroes/heroines of Illinois's nuclear power plants. They monitor all eleven nuclear power reactors at six nuclear power generating stations licensed to generate electricity in Illinois and also inspect the nuclear power plants to maintain or increase safety margins. The IEMA Resident Inspectors are Cecil Settles (NFS Section Head), Rick Zuffa (NFS Supervisor), Michael Perry (RI-Braidwood), Jane Yesinowski (RI-LaSalle), Bob Schultz (RI-Dresden), Bob Ganser (RI-Quad Cities), Cliff Thompson (RI-Byron), Stephen Mischke (RI-Clinton), Charlie Mathews (RI-Mazon), Jeff Roman (RI Mazon) and Brent Metrow (Code Inspection). Made up of licensed engineers and scientists, combined they represent over 300 reactor years of experience and they are ready to act on any assigned team position as specified by the Standard Operating Procedures of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents or communications with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Their duties range from identifying violations of federal regulations to reviewing, editing and analyzing the results or findings in reports. Cecil and Rick are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and all Resident Inspectors are on constant vigilance to maintain awareness and provide reports to IEMA management of events and trends affecting reactor safety of the Illinois Boiling Water Reactor/Pressurized Water Reactor (BWR/PWR) plants. Mike Parker, IEMA Bureau Chief of Nuclear Facility Safety, says that IEMA's Resident Inspectors will continue to ensure that plant safety and environmental impact margins are maintained at or below state and federal limits.

Lightning Safety Awareness

Lightning can be fascinating to watch, but it is also extremely dangerous. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency wants you to be aware of the dangers of lightning to reduce your risk on becoming a lightning casualty by following some basic rules. **PLAN AHEAD** – if thunderstorms are in the forecast, consider postponing outdoor activities. **WATCH THE SKY** – Make sure you, or someone in a group of people, monitor the weather conditions. **COACHES & OFFICIALS NEED A SAFETY PLAN** – If you, or your children, are involved in outdoor recreational activities, verify that scout leaders, coaches, umpires, referees, and camp counselors have guidelines for postponing outdoor events **BEFORE** thunderstorms approach. **USE THE 30/30 RULE** – When you see lightning – start counting. If you cannot count to 30 before you hear the thunder, then get indoors immediately! Once indoors, stay there for 30 minutes after hearing the last rumble of thunder before resuming outdoor activities. **GET AWAY FROM WATER** – Stop activities in or near water, such as swimming, boating, fishing, and camping, and seek a substantial shelter. For more Lightning Safety Awareness tips visit our website at <http://www.state.il.us/iema/>.



NOAA Weather Radio

At the very least, YOU should have a portable NOAA Weather Radio that will alert you to changes in the weather. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for the latest weather forecasts. The National Weather Service broadcasts weather information, including watches, warnings and advisories 24 hours a day. Weather radio transmitters have a range of about 40 miles, and weather radio transmitters that cover Illinois are located on the NOAA website at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/CntyCov/nwrIL.htm>.

New Online Services for Medical Radiation Technologists

You can now renew your active accreditation, apply for active status of a temporary accreditation or submit an address update directly from the Agency web site. To access these services you must log into Medical Radiation Technologist Services using the below button. These services are only available to those individuals that were previously accredited by the Agency. To login, you will need to provide your Social Security Number, Accreditation Number and date of birth.

The online application process requires an electronic check payment. If you choose to apply for renewal or active status online, you will need to provide your checking account information. There is no additional fee for this service.

IEMA's U.S. Army Service Person Returns

Long time IEMA/ITTF Grant Compliance Officer and Lieutenant Colonel, Sue Sackett of the United States Army returned from active duty after 6 months in the Middle East and a total of 12 months in mobilization. Sue served as the Director of the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center (JPMRC) for the United States Central Command. She and her staff were responsible for coordinating medical transportation for over 5,000 sick or injured service members, contractors, government officials, and other authorized personnel. "It was an incredibly rewarding experience, knowing that our patients arrived safely and received the medical care they needed", says Sue, and she received the Department of Defense Joint Services Commendation Medal from USCENTCOM for her actions. Sue lives in Sherman with her two children *with fur*: a Labrador Shar-pei named Woofie and a Labrador Retriever named Katie.



PHOTO: Lieutenant Colonel, Susan L. Sackett with Captain, David Shiveley (USN), Command Surgeon for United States Transportation Command upon receiving the Joint Services Commendation Medal.

Conserving Energy

Consumers use nearly a million dollars worth of energy every minute, night and day, and every day of the year <http://www.ecomall.com/greenshopping/20things.htm>? According to energy conservationists, changing our behavior can help to conserve energy, decrease our energy bills significantly and improve the environment against global warming and other pollutants. Identify opportunities to use energy more efficiently and reduce the burden of high-energy costs in Illinois.

Did you know?

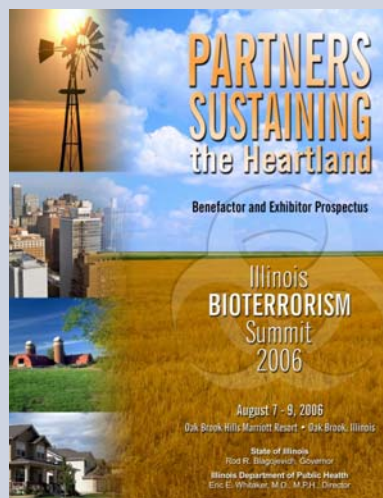
- Between 80 and 85 percent of the energy used to wash clothes comes from heating the water. Using warm or cool water instead of hot will save money and energy and get clothes just as clean. —U.S. Department of Energy.
- Many idle electronics – TVs, VCRs, DVD and CD players, cordless phones, micro-waves – use energy even when switched off to keep display clocks lit and memory chips and remote controls working. Nationally, these energy “vampires” use 5 percent of our domestic energy and cost consumers more than \$8 billion annually.
—Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and quoted in Alliance’s Power\$mart booklet
- According to estimates from the Energy Information Administration, in just two decades U.S. energy consumption will increase by about one third – roughly equivalent to the energy consumption of Texas, California, Florida, New York, and Michigan combined.
—Alliance to Save Energy.
- The average household spends some \$1,500 each year on energy bills. By choosing Energy Star-qualified products, consumers can cut this by 30 percent, a savings of about \$450 each year
—Energy Star.
- “Sleep” features that power down home office equipment and other electronic devices that are turned on but not in use can save households up to \$70 annually.
—Alliance to Save Energy Power\$mart Booklet.



Governor Blagojevich Launches

KEEP COOL ILLINOIS Campaign

The KEEP COOL ILLINOIS campaign was launched on Friday, June 9, 2006 to help “all Illinoisans - especially the elderly, families with small children and other vulnerable residents - stay cool, healthy and safe this summer.” For tips on preparing for the summer heat, visit the website at www.keepcool.illinois.gov. The KEEP COOL ILLINOIS website offers a wide variety of tips for households to avoid heat-related health problems as well as how to save energy by lowering their electricity bills and find cooling centers throughout the state. The website also provides information about state energy assistance programs, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), other energy-related resources and information about resolving utility service complaints. If you or someone you know needs assistance, call the KEEP COOL ILLINOIS hotline at (877) 411-9276.



Illinois Bioterrorism Summit 2006

August 7-9, 2006
Oak Brook Hills Marriot Resort Oak
Brook, Illinois

For questions or more information,
go to www.ipha.com or
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